

then skimmed off and run into moulds, in which shape it is exported to all parts of the empire.

It would seem that the wax-growers find that it does not pay them to reserve any of the insects for their reproductive state—and hence the necessity of importing eggs from Yunnan. In the districts of Ho-chin and Why-li-tzow, where the culture of the eggs is alone attended to, both frost and snow are experienced; so that it would not be difficult to rear the insect in Europe; and, considering its prolific nature, the production of white wax might repay the trouble of acclimatizing this curious insect.—*Cooper's 'Pioneer of Commerce,'* pp. 323, 420.

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Chinese Freshwater Crabs and Hairy Tortoises.
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We brought up alongside a boat laden with immense quantities of crabs for Chung Ching. The crabs, taken in the lakes in spring and autumn, are sent to Sz-chuan, where they are considered a great delicacy. The boats in which they are carried are fitted up with tiers of basins, holding about a pint and a half of water each; and every crab has a separate basin, which is carefully refilled every day with fresh water, and the crabs are fed on raw minced meat. Cared for in this way, they make the voyage of forty or fifty days to Sz-chuan, during which not more than one in a hundred die. In the lake-country these crabs are bought for about three chen each.

Besides crabs, there were a number of a species of small water-tortoises, which the Chinese call hairy tortoises. These curious little animals were about two inches long, and covered on the back with a long confervoid growth, resembling green hair. The tortoise being a sacred emblem in China, the Chinese make pets of the hairy tortoise, which they keep in basins of water during the summer months, and bury in sand during winter. A small lake in the province of Kiang-see is famous for these so-called hairy tortoises; and many persons earn a livelihood by the sale of these curious little pets.

The day after leaving Sha-su, I was enabled to get up and take the fresh air on the deck of our boat: we were already in the lakes, which were unusually full of water; and on every lake busy fleets of small boats were at work, procuring loads of weeds which grow during the summer. The crews employed long double rakes, working like a pair of tongs, for gathering the weeds, which are used in the surrounding country for manure.—*Cooper's 'Pioneer of Commerce,'* p. 424.

E. CLAPARÈDE.

We regret to have to announce the death of this celebrated naturalist, which took place at Sienna, on the 31st ult. The cause of his death was a disease of the heart, from which he had long suffered acutely. His age was only 39.